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Embracing the ASSET of Cultural Identity for URI Nursing Students

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Embracing the asset of cultural identity for URI nursing students

By Janelle Amoako

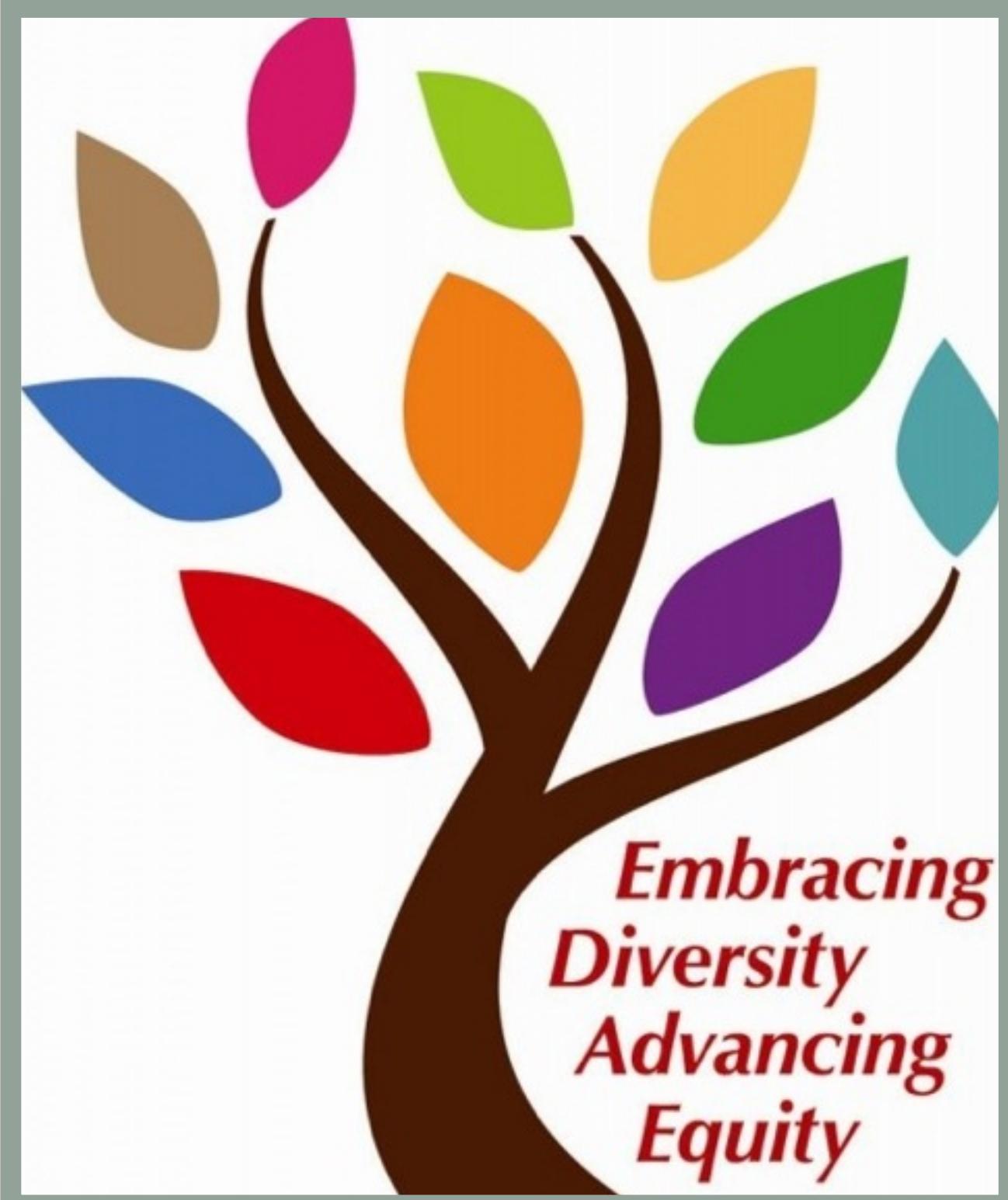


Introduction

An ethnically diverse nursing workforce has been linked to higher access/quality of care to persons of color (8, 9,10). Therefore, it is paramount that our nursing students of color understand how their cultural identities can advance the nursing profession. As a result, my project involves the creation of the African, Latin, Asian, Native American (ALANA) Student Nurses of URI which will establish a supportive network for our culturally diverse nursing students.

Background

Miscommunication/misunderstanding of treatment protocols may occur if nurses are not aware of cultural health practices and beliefs of their patients. As a student on a Hausman Nursing Fellowship, I had the opportunity to learn this firsthand.



Methods

- Building the structure of the ALANA Student Nurses of URI organization to encourage student participation and sustainability
- Obtaining recognition through the Student Senate (pending) and the College of Nursing
- Seeking collaboration with health professions organizations in communities across the state of Rhode Island and promoting understanding of health disparities that affect persons of color
- Planning events for the 2015-2016 academic year with professional nurse leaders and organizations such as the Rhode Island Department of Health.

Student organizations/programs we plan to collaborate with:

- Brown University- Student National Medical Association (SNMA), Pipeline Program
- URI Student Nurses Association (SNA)
- Alpha Tau Delta (ATD) Nursing Fraternity
- URI Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA)

Anticipated Outcome

ALANA Student Nurses of URI has received strong support from students, faculty, and administrators of the College of Nursing. Our organization will serve as a model for promoting access/quality of care to persons from diverse backgrounds.

Literature Review



- As demographics continue to shift within the United States, there is an increased need to support pathways to success for culturally diverse students (1,6)



- Nurses' understanding of their own and others' cultural practices/beliefs is essential to their effectiveness in providing patient care (2, 8,9)



- Outreach to students at the middle/high school level has been shown to encourage students' entrance into nursing programs (1)

- Peer and faculty support are critical to student success (3, 4, 5, 6)
- Minority students may exhibit feelings of loneliness, and isolation. Often they experience multiple stressors including family obligations and financial hardship (4)



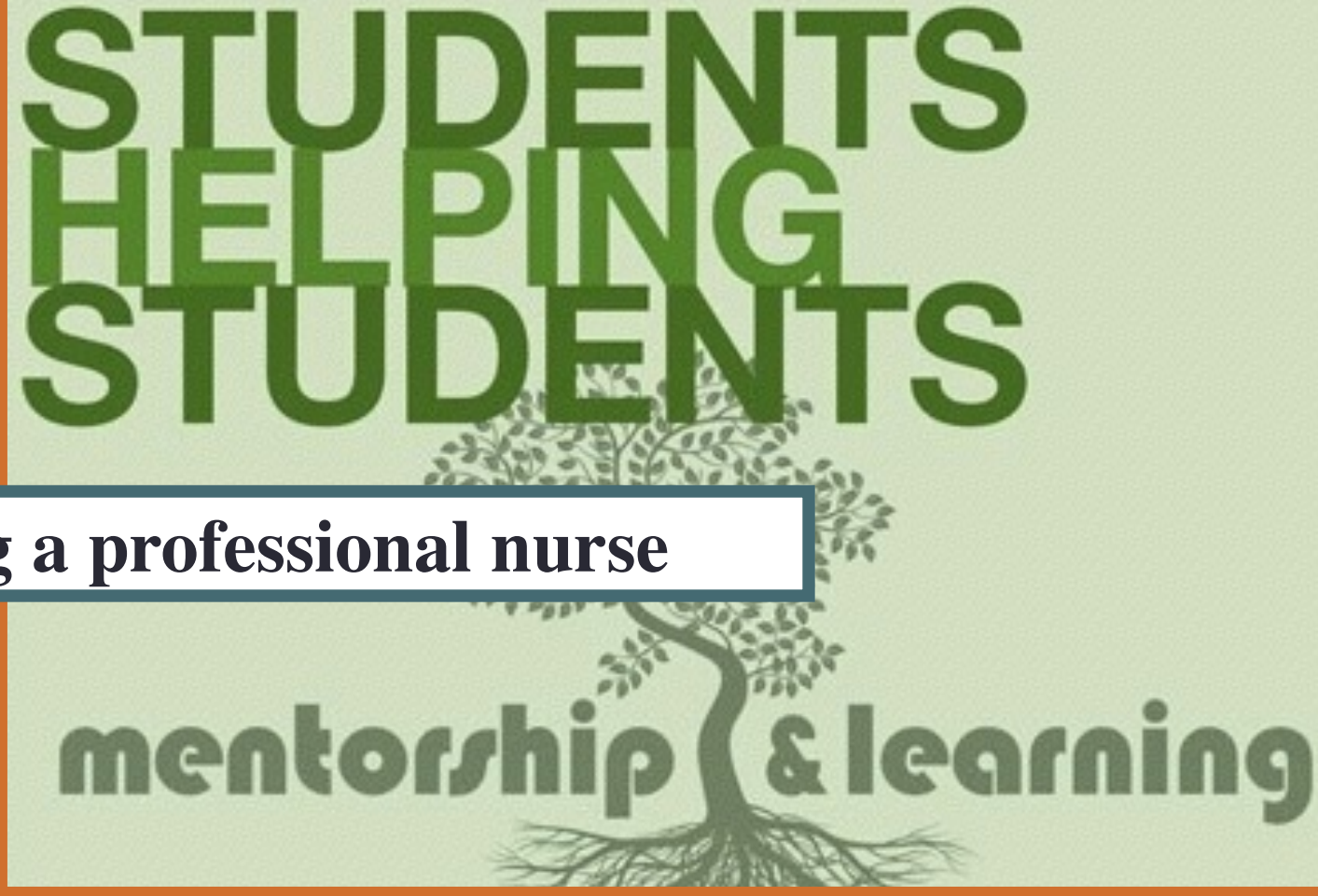
Acknowledgements

Thank you to my faculty advisor Dr. Delores Walters, my honors advisor Prof. Carolyn Hames, students, and faculty/staff of the College of Nursing for their continued support of this project.

The three primary aims of the organization are:



Preparedness towards becoming a professional nurse



Outreach to students at the middle/high school level



Photo taken at a panel discussion with high school students from the Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College in Providence, RI

Education/community involvement



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